



THE SAMUEL L. NAPIER INTERCOMMUNAL YOUTH INSTITUTE



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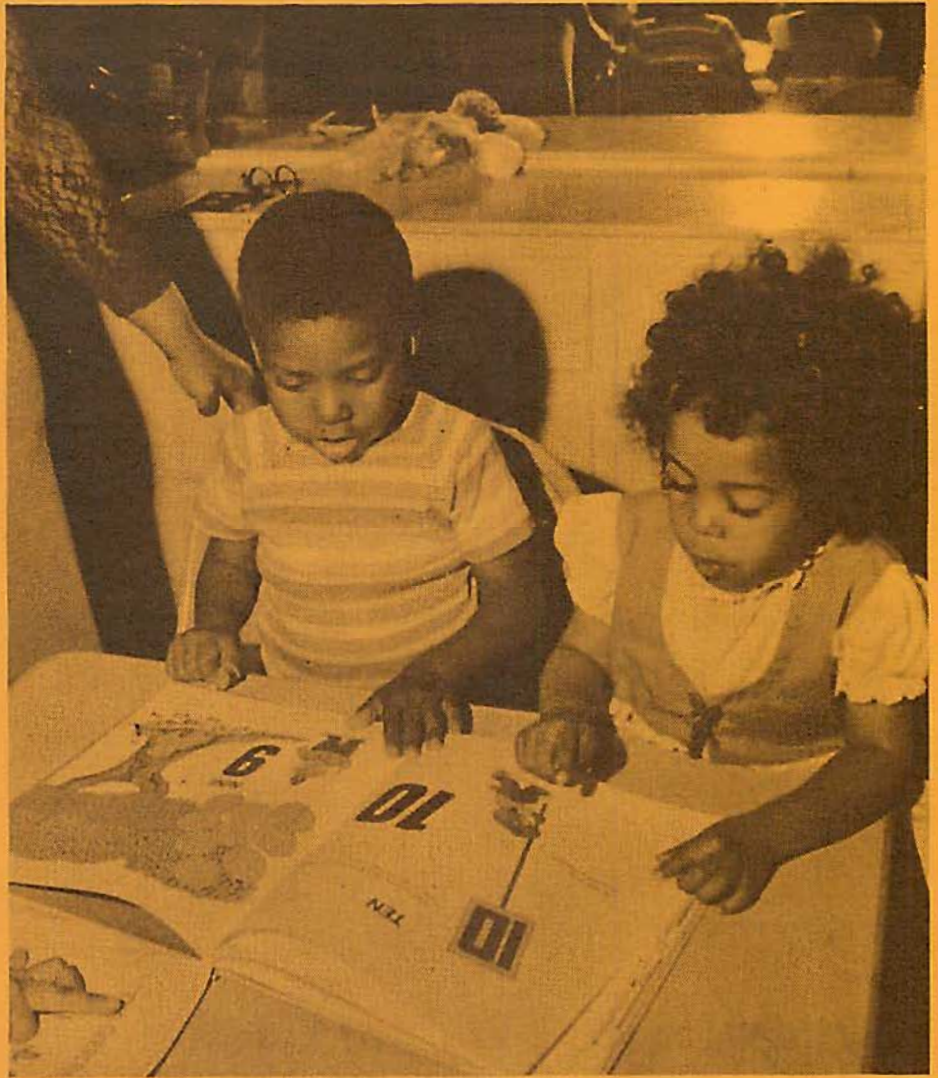
The Samuel L. Napier Intercommunal Youth Institute was established in January 1971, by the Black Panther Party. The Institute was initiated in direct response to the educational system, which manifests itself today in the public school system, has systematically produced individuals that are totally incapable of thinking in an analytical way. The failure of the public school system to educate Black and poor youth has caused generation after generation of our people to be inadequately prepared to participate and survive in our highly technological society. In order to begin to break this seemingly endless cycle of oppression, the Black Panther Party established the Youth Institute. Our plan is to educate Black children to become fully capable of analyzing the problems we face and to develop creative solutions to deal with them.

Since 1971, the Institute has almost doubled its enrollment and has developed its program more fully. Today the school includes 42 youth from the ages of 2½ to 11. They are children of Black Panther Party members as well as children of people in the neighboring communities. Our



People's Arts, art which depicts our peoples understanding of reality, is only one of the variety of courses taught at the Institute.

concentration is not only on exchanging basic skills and an analytical way of thinking, but we seek to transform the way in which the youth interrelate with each other. The young people at the school are regarded as developing human beings whose ideas and opinions are respected. The youth participate (in a democratic fashion) in planning many school activities. They may openly criticize the entire program of our school, using as their guide the basic principles of living and working together in harmony. The instructors and the students have mutual love and respect for one another. (Both understand the need for the principle "each one help one; each one teach one.") They live, work, and play together. Everything is done collectively in order to develop an understanding of solidarity and socialism in a practical way. They work collectively during the week and on the weekends the youth visit their parents or close friends. Since education is an ongoing 24 hour process, all of the parents of the youth work very closely with the Institute. Parents are encouraged to give suggestions and make criticisms, both of which are essential to our progress.

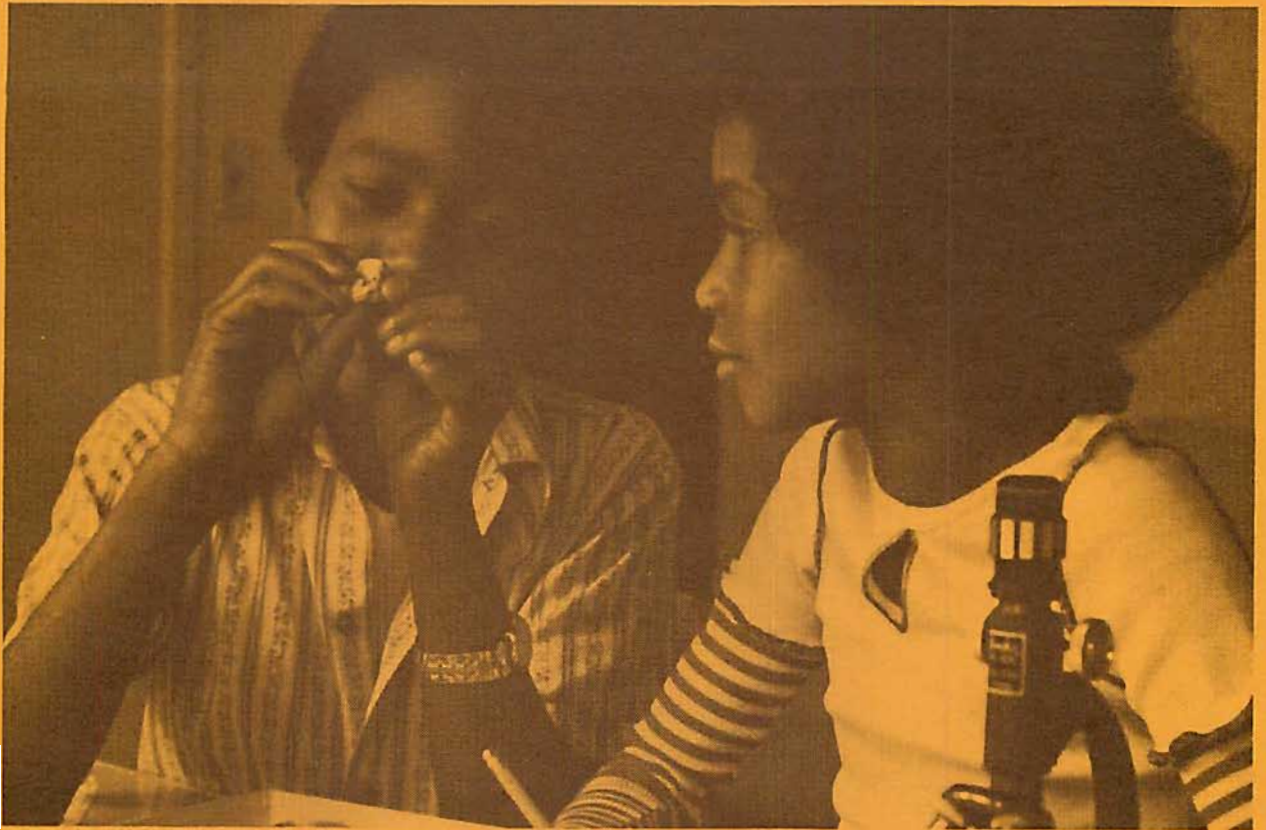


The public school system has failed to adequately prepare generation after generation of Black and poor people to live in this highly technological society.

The academic program of the Institute covers a wide variety of subject matter. The following courses are taught:

- I. Language Arts
- II. Mathematics
- III. Political Education
- IV. General Science
- V. People's Art and Music
- VI. Physical Education

A wide variety of methods are utilized in teaching the various subjects. Two basic principles underline and run through all of the classes. First, the general analytical approach in all subject areas is one of understanding the many-sidedness of all things as opposed to a one-sided or narrow view of reality. Therefore the youth view things in a practical, non-idealistic manner. Their understanding



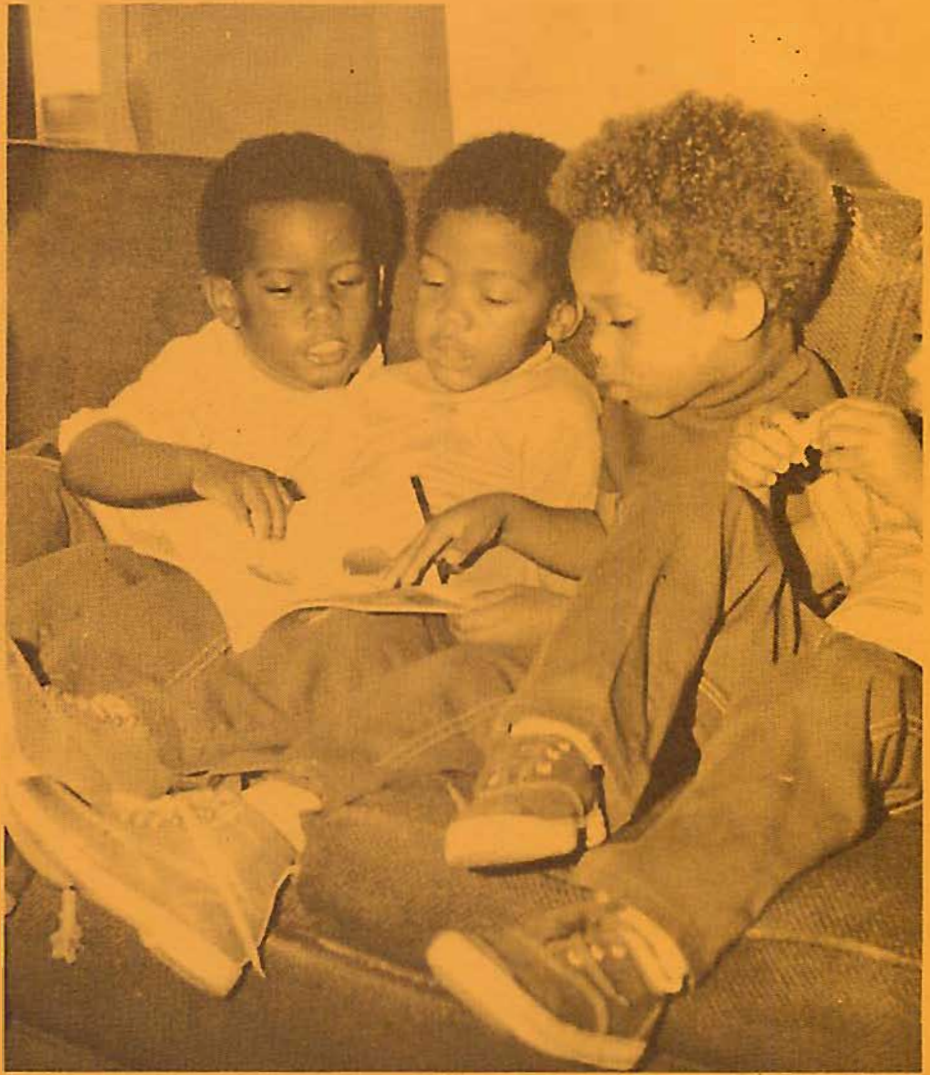
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of the world will lead them to investigation and analysis of both the positive and negative aspects of a thing.

The second principle which is emphasized is that in order to be able to transform any situation or thing, one must be in contact with it. The youth, at various times, study the physical and social phenomena of their community firsthand and test out their theories for making basic changes through practical activity.

The twelve staff members of the Institute are mainly members of the Black Panther Party; however, we have always had interested and skilled community people working with us in all areas. Presently there is a great need for personnel with the expertise in all subject areas to complement the existing staff. We are looking forward to enlarging our staff with people who are interested in meeting the educational needs of Black and other oppressed children.

Our present location (in North Oakland) is totally inadequate; the living and classroom space



At the Institute, both the instructors and youth understand the principle "each one help one; each one teach one."

is far too small. The proposed site for the new Institute is a large church located in East Oakland. The church has 35 rooms of various sizes, including an auditorium and cafeteria which seats 350 persons. There are also 15 rooms which have already been designated as classrooms. In addition to the church there are four houses which we would like to purchase and use for living quarters for the youth. Another important factor about this location is the neighborhood — which is predominantly Black (low to middle income families). This large facility would enable us to develop our program in many ways. We would like to expand our present program to include more of the youth in the community. We have had many requests from interested parents who wish to have their children enrolled; we have a waiting list of 20. Two additional programs we would like to start are a tutorial program for youth from 11-17 and an adult literacy program.

We are also in need of immediate furnishing for the building such as a shower room, classroom, and closets. These things will be needed before the new Institute can begin to function properly.